

Nuclear Power Plant Technician Program (Year 2)

Executive Summary

During the first year of this grant, IRSC has successfully expanded the Nuclear Power Plant Technology Institute in two distinct ways: 1) the development of the Virtual Resource Center for Nuclear Energy; and 2) the addition of specializations for Non-Licensed Operators (NLO) and Radiological Protection (RP) Technicians. Specifically, the Nuclear Power Plant Technology Institute at IRSC has increased its capacity to accommodate 53 new students, more than doubling its original size. Seventeen of these students are enrolled in the RP track and twelve in the NLO. IRSC has also added Bartlett Energy Inc. as an industry partner, which will provide advice and internships for the RP program and its candidates. The initial phase of the Virtual Resource Center for Nuclear Energy has been launched and resides at www.vrcnuclear.com. The ultimate purpose of this site is to provide a centralized location to collect, organize, and coordinate training resources for nuclear training programs across the country. Included on this site are course descriptions, specific objectives, track outlines, and laboratory equipment lists needed to launch a track or program. The site also provides alternative training resources, to supplement learning objectives in a classroom environment. Samples will include video tutorials filmed in the IRSC Digital Media Center.

IRSC is applying for continuation funding for year two in order to accomplish the objectives stated in the original grant including: 1) optimizing and enhancing the RP and NLO tracks created during the 1st year of this grant; 2) continuing the development of the Virtual Resource Center for Nuclear Energy and its training resources; and 3) creating a summer academy for secondary students. The summer program will focus on reaching students at the high school level in order to educate and guide them toward career paths in the nuclear energy industry. The continuation of this project will further strengthen IRSC's nuclear program ensuring a reliable pipeline of skilled workers for the nuclear energy industry.

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